

7. MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL MITIGATION ACTIONS

In developing this BCHMP, the municipalities of Benton County recognize that many hazard mitigation actions are “common” to multiple jurisdictions, e.g., there are many mitigation actions that applied to all of the municipalities. In addition, there are several advantages to establishing multi-jurisdictional mitigation actions, including:

- Assuring that all municipalities are involved in addressing each of the hazards.
- Combining resources increases the available funding and staff to implement the action items, while sharing the burden of implementing the action items.
- Establishing a consistent message to County residents and to State and Federal agencies regarding the determination of the County and Cities to mitigate hazards.
- Increasing the reach and potential impact of public education and outreach programs.
- Facilitating hazard prevention planning.
- Encouraging partnerships and cooperation between all stakeholders county-wide.

Accordingly, the municipalities have jointly identified the following multi-jurisdictional mitigation action items.

7.1 Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-hazard Mitigation Action Items

| Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Action Item No 1 (All Municipalities) | | | |
|---|-------------|----------|-----------|
| Mitigation Project Summary: Partner with other organizations (e.g. other federal, state, and local agencies, the Red Cross, other volunteer groups, etc.) to provide public education and training for hazard mitigation. This project will help provide the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reach out to public and private schools to help implement “Masters of Disaster” program.• Provide mitigation workshops to community groups, emphasizing family preparations for disasters and hazards.• Provide additional staff position to assist with education and recruiting. | | | |
| Description of the Problem: Established emergency response agencies in the County have very limited staff and cannot take advantage of all of the opportunities there are for decreasing the risk of damage from hazards. | | | |
| Priority | Lead Agency | Timeline | Resources |
| High | BCES | Short | Combined |
| Goals Addressed: 1, 2, 4 | | | |

| Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Action Item No 2 (All Municipalities) | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Mitigation Project Summary: Evaluate and streamline the process for providing information to the public when a hazard is occurring. This project will evaluate the current processes for giving out information to the general public during a hazard event. Changes will be made as necessary to the process to ensure that correct and factual information reaches the public in a timely fashion. Consideration will be given to the differing information needs of the general public, media, businesses associated with tourism and travel, and other groups with special need or interests. | | | |
| Description of the Problem: Delays in providing information to the general public while obtaining official permission can make the information less useful than it might have been otherwise. | | | |
| Priority | Lead Agency | Timeline | Resources |
| Medium | BCES | Short | Internal |
| Goals Addressed: 2 | | | |

| Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Action Item No 3 (All Municipalities) | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Mitigation Project Summary: Ensure equipment carried by emergency response personnel is adequate for all likely scenarios. This project will evaluate the current equipment carried by an individual with “first responder” duties during or immediately following the occurrence of the hazard. Design a system for “self-containment” of emergency response personnel. | | | |
| Description of the Problem: Emergency response personnel are often operating in difficult or remote locations without adequate tools. | | | |
| Priority | Lead Agency | Timeline | Resources |
| High | BCES & combined Fire Districts/Departments | Short | Combined |
| Goals Addressed: 7 | | | |

| Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Action Item No 4 (All Municipalities) | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Mitigation Project Summary: Develop data to support a more in-depth evaluation of the potential impacts of hazards. This project will search through public records to identify costs, extent, and problems associated with past hazard events. The information costs will be documented and then the BCHMP will be revised to reflect the additional data. | | | |
| Description of the Problem: It is difficult to justify mitigation actions without data that relates the cost of damages caused by a given hazard to the level of risk posed by that hazard. | | | |
| Priority | Lead Agency | Timeline | Resources |
| Medium | BCES | Medium | Internal |
| Goals Addressed: 3 | | | |

| Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Action Item No 5 (All Municipalities) | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Mitigation Project Summary: Complete the hazard characterization and risk analysis for all other hazards identified in the BCHMP, e.g., obtain sufficient funding to support data gathering, risk analysis, and identification of hazard mitigation actions for other natural and technological hazards identified in the BCHMP. | | | |
| Description of the Problem: The current BCHMP is not complete. Hazard analyses are limited to three priority hazards; other natural and technological hazards are not adequately addressed. Completing the BCHMP will be dependent upon available resources, including grants and other funding sources provided by state and federal agencies. | | | |
| Priority | Lead Agency | Timeline | Resources |
| High | BCES | Medium | Combined |
| Goals Addressed: 3 | | | |

| Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Action Item No 6 (All Municipalities) | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Mitigation Project Summary: Develop and implement unified accounting procedures to track costs of hazard planning, impacts, and response; such procedures should be acceptable to the State and FEMA for reporting and grant applications. | | | |
| Description of the Problem: A lack of unified cost tracking and accounting procedures for hazard mitigation, planning, response, and recovery reduces the effectiveness of hazard mitigation activities, including reporting and applications for funding. | | | |
| Priority | Lead Agency | Timeline | Resources |
| High | BCES | Short | Combined |
| Goals Addressed: 3, 4, and 7 | | | |

| Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Action Item No 7 (All Municipalities) | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Mitigation Project Summary: Develop alternative sources for potable water, including water system pipeline interties and/or other backup systems. | | | |
| Description of the Problem: A wide variety of hazards could potentially interrupt water service or curtail a single source of supply. | | | |
| Priority | Lead Agency | Timeline | Resources |
| High | BCES | Medium | Combined |
| Goals Addressed: 3 and 5 | | | |

7.2 Multi-Jurisdictional Flood Hazard Mitigation Action Items

| Multi-Jurisdictional Flood Hazard Action Item No. 1 | | | |
|---|--|----------|-----------|
| Mitigation Project Summary: Utilize applicable recommendations from the draft 2001 Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP) to mitigate flood hazards. Specifically, (1) review recommendations contained in the draft 2001 CFHMP against current hazard conditions; (2) assign lead agencies and priorities to selected recommendations; and (3) implement those recommendations that address current needs. A copy of the flood hazard management recommendations for Benton County is attached (for complete details, refer to the draft 2001 CFHMP). Some of the recommendations include optional methods for addressing problems. Further analysis of these recommendations will be needed to choose the most effective solutions). | | | |
| Description of the Problem: The draft 2001 CFHMP prepared for Benton County has not been adopted, and its recommendations to prevent flood damage have not been implemented. The draft CFHMP contains potential flood hazard mitigation alternatives including construction projects, new policy decisions, land use modifications, enhancements to regulations, and options for retrofitting existing structures. Many of these alternatives are identified in the draft CFHMP as recommendations, and the recommendations prioritized by relative cost, time needed for implementation, potential for success in solving the flooding issue, technical feasibility, and social/political feasibility. | | | |
| Priority | Lead Agency | Timeline | Resources |
| High | Benton County Planning/Building Department | Medium | Combined |
| Goals Addressed: 1, 5, 6 | | | |

7.3 Multi-Jurisdictional Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Action Items

| Multi-Jurisdictional Wildfire Action Item No. 1 (All Municipalities) | | | |
|--|--|----------|-----------|
| Mitigation Project Summary: Develop and implement (e.g., continue and expand current efforts) a wildfire prevention/education program. In addition to providing education to the general public, the program should target children, fire and equipment users, builders and developers, and homeowners. Develop and implement a program to provide a fire prevention specialist focusing on public contact with individuals and groups. | | | |
| Description of the Problem: Property developers and owners in the interface are often not aware of the problems and risks they face. Many homeowners have done very little to manage or offset fire hazards on their property. | | | |
| Priority | Lead Agency | Timeline | Resources |
| High | BCES & combined Fire Districts/Departments | Short | Combined |
| Goals Addressed: 1, 2 | | | |

7.4 Multi-Jurisdictional Windstorm Hazard Mitigation Action Items

| Multi-Jurisdictional Windstorm Action Item No. 1 | | | |
|--|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Mitigation Project Summary: Develop and implement a public education program (in coordination with the Benton Clean Air Authority) to educate the community (in particular those typically involved in ground clearing, e.g. builders, developers, and farmers) on the need to maintain groundcover and not leave soil exposed to wind. | | | |
| Description of the Problem: Bare soil is eroded by the wind, and contributes to blowing dust. The blowing dust exacerbates the impacts of windstorms. | | | |
| Priority | Lead Agency | Timeline | Resources |
| Medium | Benton County Planning/Building Department | Short | Combined |
| Goals Addressed: 2, 4 | | | |